

## INTERMISSION

after a suitable interval  
of lying in each other's arms  
i get up and pull my pants on, saying,

"there is no significance in this,  
the donning of the clothes."

what i mean is that i'm not leaving yet --  
i'm just planning to raid the refrigerator  
and i don't like to eat while naked  
because i don't like to watch my stomach grow.

but what she says is,  
"that's the most poetic thing  
i've ever heard you say."

## ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCE

looking at the paintings of paul cezanne  
makes me feel i should be looking more closely  
at my kitchen and my environs.  
probably there are a lot of poems there  
that i've been missing.

cezanne paints "still life with milk can,  
carafe, and coffee bowl."

i look into my kitchen and compose "still life  
with lady kenmore refrigerator, stove, and  
washing machine purchased by wife with  
assistance of wife's mother and aunt as a  
reproach to husband who saw nothing wrong  
with the old appliances."

## TIRELESS RESEARCHERS

a friend of mine who teaches part-time  
at a local junior college  
assigned his freshman english class  
to choose an autobiography --  
any autobiography --  
and report on it.

half the class reported  
that they couldn't find one.